

curriculum

Curriculum Newsletter

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Curriculum Newsletter

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Principals and Department Heads:

Please circulate this newsletter to teachers who may find it of interest.

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LANGUAGE ARTS & FINE ARTS

Elementary Language Arts

A new feature of the integrated language arts program which is presently undergoing extension is children's literature. In the past, prime attention has been paid to developing reading skills but not following through with using those skills to read good literature. Look for some approaches and suggested titles in the new curriculum guide.

Children's Literature Conference, 1977

Some of the A.T.A. specialist councils are getting together to sponsor a conference on children's literature and film. The conference is scheduled for September 22 to 25, 1977, in Calgary or Banff. Watch for more word on this interesting development which will emphasize Canadian literature and film. Some big names will be speaking.

Senior High Language Arts Questionnaire

Your opportunity to respond to what should be done about the senior high language arts program and texts is here. Questionnaires have been forwarded to all language arts teachers. Check around your school for your copy.

We encourage you to complete and return it to the Curriculum Branch Alberta Education. Thank you for your ideas.

English 23

The text What Do You Think? is now out of print. It will not be replaced until the current review of the senior high language arts program is completed.

Senior High Native Literature Unit

A unit of work which will fit into the Native Canadian Literature module of Literature 21 has been prepared by Bernie Desrosiers and Al Soller of Grande Prairie. If you are teaching this module and would like some additional ideas, write to Al Soller for a copy. You can reach him at: Regional Office of Education, 5th Floor, Nordic Court, 10014 - 99 Street, Grande Prairie.

Fine Arts - Elementary and Secondary

It is not too late to write in your recommendations about changes in the art, music and drama programs. Send ideas to M. F. Thornton, Associate Director of Curriculum, Alberta Education, 10105 - 109 Street, Edmonton.

SOCIAL STUDIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bibliography of Materials Dealing with Canadian Military History

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges has produced a very useful twenty-six page bibliography of resources for the study of Canadian military history. Materials are listed under headings such as:

- General Information on the Canadian Military;
- The Fall of French Canada;
- The War of 1812;
- The Rebellion of 1837;
- The Northwest Rebellions;
- The South African War;
- The Royal Canadian Airforce;
- World War I;
- World War II;
- Recent Releases.

Copies of the bibliography may be obtained from the Editor, Curriculum Branch, Department of Education, Edmonton.

Unit Plan on the Inuit Available to Alberta Teachers

Mr. David Annanowt of the Inuit Cultural Institute, Eskimo Point, N.W.T., XOC OEO, has agreed to make available to Alberta teachers copies of The Inuit: A Model for Survival, a 23-page unit outline designed to help teachers plan a study of the Inuit people. The unit contains statements of objectives, outlines of content, suggested processes, and lists of print and non-print resources relating to the Inuit. Though the suggested learning activities and resources are more appropriate for use in secondary grades, the unit outline contains many ideas that would be useful to elementary teachers.

The Inuit: A Model for Survival is available free of charge from the Inuit Cultural Institute at the address noted above.

Map of Canada Study Kit Available

Canadian Travellers is an elementary or junior high school kit designed to aid in the teaching of the provinces of Canada, their capital cities, their products and relative distances throughout Canada (by use of metric measurements). The unit begins with the basic concepts of left and right and progresses to encompass direction, grid reading skills and the skills related to map reading and comprehension of symbols.

The kit consists of a large map of Canada mounted on heavy cardboard, two clear plastic grids to be used with the map, three decks of cards on kilometres, products and capital cities, and a teacher's guide that includes duplication master worksheets.

Canadian Travellers can be purchased as a single kit which can be used at the same time by 6-8 students, or in a class set which has four game boards and four decks of each kind of cards. Kits are sent out on a preview basis if requested.

For further information and prices, please contact Puckrin's Production House Ltd. at:

13025 - 149 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

Book Released on the Crown's Role in Canadian Government

A new book by Frank MacKinnon of the University of Calgary should prove extremely useful to teachers of Grade X Social Studies. The Crown in Canada presents a sophisticated study of how the Queen and her Governors complement the structure and process of Canadian government. Though the reading level of the book and the amount of detail it contains may exceed the capacities of most Grade X students, the book should prove a real delight to the more able student who has a keen interest in the study of government.

The Crown in Canada is published by the Glenbow-Alberta Institute and McClelland and Stewart West. It is available from the School Book Branch, 6240 - 113 Street, Edmonton.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health Education

In the last two years an ad hoc committee has been designing a program for secondary health. As the last revision of this course was some twenty years ago, a substantial revision is in order.

A significant change in need has emerged. This change is reflected in the formative design of the program, in which an emphasis is placed upon psychological over physiological needs. In fact, a new name of Personal Well-Being is being proposed.

As the offering of such a course is going to require mature, sensitive approaches it is deemed advisable to spend considerable time in program development and teacher preparation. Therefore, rather than attempt to develop a program at the provincial level for local development, a reverse order of development is being considered.

Many systems through current health or locally developed courses are offering instruction in many of the content areas identified in the new proposal. Consideration is being given to the development of a rationale which may be of value to systems in their local development. An ad hoc committee, through a seminar already completed and a conference planned for June, 1976, will be developing this rationale further. If the developmental process proposed is feasible, systems will be contacted to determine interest in carrying forward some part of the local development. Announcements will be made at suitable times and through appropriate means.

Secondary Physical Education

During the last six years committees have been working on a major revision of the secondary physical education program. There are at least three significant trends worthy of note in the developments which have occurred.

1. A conceptual approach of using motion through space, time and force is being used in organizing games, gymnastics, aquatics and creative dance.

2. The learning experiences are being structured to lead to life-long activity.
3. The program is designed to encourage the participation of the many rather than the development of the excellence of a few, but the latter is not to be excluded.

Recognizing that new programs are successful only when they are understandable to and manageable by teachers, a pilot was conducted. This pilot was not conducted to prove the superiority of this new program over the current one. Rather it was conducted to determine what teaching strategies of teachers, learning styles of students, and attitudes of both were compatible with the new program.

As considerable development has occurred in the games section, it is hoped that a program of studies statement will be prepared for alternate offering in September, 1977. Prior to that it is planned that an interim guide and supporting in-service material will be made available to teachers wishing to offer the new program. Developmental work for later adoption will continue in the other areas of gymnastics, aquatics and creative dance.

More detailed information is available from:

Jack Flaherty
Guidance Consultant, Lethbridge Regional
Office of Education

K. McKenna
Education Consultant, Calgary Regional
Office of Education

B. Ward
Education Consultant, Edmonton Regional
Office of Education

SECOND LANGUAGES AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION

A. French as a Second Language

The members of the ad hoc committee on French as a Second Language (Elementary) have developed a program which will be presented to the Curriculum Board at the 1976 fall meeting. If given approval, this program will be ready for implementation for the 1977-78 school year. The same members will begin to examine appropriate instructional materials during the month of May.

The members of the Criteria ad hoc committee are reviewing instructional materials for French as a Second Language at the secondary level. Recommendations for new instructional materials will be made at the 1976 fall meeting of the Curriculum Board.

Federal - Provincial Program of Bilingualism in Education

Teachers are reminded that funds are being made available by the Department of the Secretary of State to improve the quality of second official language teaching and minority language teaching for short-term training sessions. The maximum amount of these bursaries is \$600 for a six-week period.

Funds are also made available by the Secretary of State to provide students with an opportunity for immersion in the milieu of their second language, and to encourage official minority-language students to pursue their post-secondary studies in their own language.

Details regarding both these programs and application forms can be obtained by writing directly to:

Ms. Diane Morgan
Students' Finance Board
1100 Park Place
10001 Bellamy Hill Road
EDMONTON, Alberta T5J 3B1

Ukrainian Language Pilot Program

The Curriculum Branch is developing curricular materials for implementing the third year of the Ukrainian language pilot program for September, 1976. An evaluation of this program during the first year of implementation was very positive in terms of the meeting of its objectives. The students now involved in this program for the second year will also be evaluated.

In addition the Curriculum Branch, in cooperation with the Department of the Secretary of State through the Minister responsible for Multi-culturalism, has developed a reading series which complements a language development program for children learning Ukrainian. The Federal contribution was received by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Federation which coordinated the publication of this series. These materials are available through the School Book Branch of the Department of Education.

B. Le Français selon la section 150 (1) (a) de l'Acte Scolaire

1. Les buts de l'éducation fondamentale

"Les buts: éducation fondamentale" est une version française du document The Goals of Basic Education. Ce document est maintenant disponible au même titre que sa version en anglais.

2. Programmes d'études

Les versions françaises des Programmes d'études pour les écoles élémentaires et secondaires, 1er cycle ont été publiées. La distribution du "Programme d'études des écoles élémentaires" a été faite; celle des écoles secondaires 1er cycle se fera sous peu.

3. Etudes sociales

Le guide pédagogique pour les études sociales 1er cycle est en circulation depuis novembre 1975. Des copies de ce guide sont toujours disponibles aux écoles. On y a inséré des suggestions pertinentes quant au contenu canadien pour les cours d'études sociales. Avis aux écoles de bien vouloir le consulter.

4. Mathématiques

Le "Guide d'usage du système métrique" publié par le Conseil des Ministres de l'Education (Canada) est disponible au bureau de Jacques Moquin, conseiller pédagogique.

5. Français langue première

Le guide pédagogique pour les écoles élémentaires est en préparation. Un comité ad hoc participera à la révision et à la rédaction finale de ce guide qui paraîtra à l'automne 1976.

SCIENCES

The past winter has been marked by steady progress in all areas of science curriculum development. Some of the highlights are:

Elementary Science

Garry Popowich, Education Consultant in Red Deer, and his band of merry teachers have been working diligently and expect to have a tentative course outline for elementary science done by early fall. Their timeline still calls for a new program to be available in the fall of 1977.

Junior High Science

The Junior High Science committee has completed its task and the revised curriculum guide will be reissued this summer. There is a new line-up of recommended text books that will be available when the necessary ministerial approval is obtained.

Physics

Fred Nordby, Education Consultant in Grande Prairie, and some members of the ad hoc committee have met with the Physics pilot teachers and have received an interim report on the suitability of the revised program and the textual resources used to teach it. The pilot is going well and the committee has received many suggestions for improving the program as outlined. Their timeline calls for a revised program to be available for the fall of 1977. (Physics: A Human Endeavour is still the text being considered.)

Chemistry

This committee has been doing yeoman service for a long time and the tentative course outline is almost ready for teacher reaction. The plan is now to have a year of familiarization and discussion with groups of teachers about the approaches to the teaching of chemistry.

It is expected that most schools will be ready to present the revised program in the fall of 1977. So far, they have identified Keys to Chemistry as a good reference for Chemistry 10 - 20. They are still examining books for Chemistry 30.

Biology

The committee has almost completed its task. Kimball's Biology has been identified as an alternative authorized text for Biology 30 and the update of "Green Version" has been recommended for Biology 10 - 20.

Land and Life

The Land and Life Committee has also been forging ahead and is working on a tentative course outline for grades 11 and 12. The Land and Life program is an applied science course based on a study of the renewable resources of Alberta, starting in grade nine as a replacement for the present Agriculture "A option" through to grade 12 where it is to be quite a technical course. Their time-line calls for a tentative course outline for spring, 1976, to which teachers will be asked to react.

METRIC EDUCATION

The process of metrication is proceeding very quickly and it has reached the point at which most teachers are including SI units in their courses wherever there is a need to measure something. Dr. S. A. Lindstedt has been under contract as a Metric Consultant to the Department for the past two years. He has done a commendable job and his work has been much appreciated.

To recapitulate then, the metric system that we are adopting is SI and there may be a tendency for teachers of secondary sciences to say "We have always taught the metric units - what's the concern?" It is true that they are very familiar with many metric units and are very adept in the area of decimalization, including such topics as errors, significant digits and scientific notation. However the change over to the SI units has some subtle implications that require vigilance on the part of science teachers. Here are some of the subtleties:

1. SI is a fairly new system. For example, the modern definition of a metre was approved in 1960; the modern definition of a litre was approved in 1964; and it was not until 1969 - that's only seven years ago - that the CIPM (International Committee of Weights and Measures) declared that:
 - a. the base units, the supplementary units, and the derived units of the International System of Units (which were decided upon in 1960) form a coherent set and are denoted by the name "SI units";
 - b. the prefixes adopted by the CGPM (General Conference of Weights and Measures) for the formation of decimal multiples and sub-multiples of SI units are called "SI prefixes"; and the CIPM recommended that:
 - c. we use SI units, and their decimal multiples and sub-multiples, whose names are formed by means of SI prefixes.
2. SI is a world-wide system. Local idiosyncracies are discouraged. This means that even those countries which have been "metric" will need to make some modifications in the selection of units and in the use of symbols.
3. SI is a coherent system. Beginning with the seven base units and the two supplementary units it is possible to develop or derive all other units with a one-to-one relationship. E.g., the SI unit for power is the watt, symbol W. This unit can be expressed in terms of base units as $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3}$. The constant in the relationship $W = \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-3}$ is 1.

4. The above considerations result in the elimination of certain old metric units, e.g. the dyne, the erg, the calorie, the micron, the maxwell, and the gauss.
5. A few new names for units are introduced, e.g. the pascal (Pa), adopted in 1971; the siemens (S), adopted in 1971; and the becquerel (Bq) and the gray (Gy), both adopted in 1975.
6. However and notwithstanding, the coherent SI units are not quite comprehensive enough to satisfy all measurement situations. Therefore there is need for some units outside the international system e.g. minute and hour, degree of angle, litre, degree Celsius, tonne, electronvolt, and parsec.

In summary, there are enough modifications and considerations here to suggest that teachers should be wary of relying on memory of units and approaches learned in the past and be prepared to relearn some parts of the system.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

There appears to be a growing interest in Environmental Education. The answers to environmental problems are more than a superficial concern, for the symptoms of the environmental crises lie deep within the fabric of our society. As a first approach to bringing an awareness of the extent of the rethinking that must be done, the Interdepartmental Committee for Environmental Education is meeting with Drs. Valaskakis and Gindell, authors of the Gamma Study: Tentative Blueprints for A Conserver Society in Canada. Educators will be kept informed as plans materialize.

You, Me, & the Environment Program

"You, Me & the Environment", a new secondary school program dealing with solid waste, recycling and litter is now available to all grade 7-12 teachers in Alberta free of charge.

The unit consists of an 8-page booklet entitled "You, Me & the Environment", a 4-page Teacher's Guide and a poster. A twelve minute tape and 72 slides to compliment the unit are also available on loan from Outdoors Unlittered.

Each secondary school principal in Alberta has been supplied with a sample unit and an order form. Teachers interested in receiving the unit should order on a school basis.

"You, Me & the Environment" is suitable for use in such subject areas as Science, Language Arts, Social Studies and Mathematics. It is aimed at studies related to the urban environment, pollution, solid waste, conservation and ecology.

Teachers in Calgary can receive more information on the unit by contacting Outdoors Unlittered at 503-604-1st St. S.W. (262-4433). All other schools in Alberta should contact Outdoors Unlittered at 1-9930-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

BUSINESS EDUCATION & INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Integrated Practical Activities

During the past year the Curriculum Branch of Alberta Education has been evaluating teaching strategies through what are called "integrated practical activities".

Learning is multisensory and active rather than passive. Much of the elementary curriculum is verbal, yet the content can involve experience and direct perception, components which are basic to learning, through selecting activities that reinforce the concepts identified in the curriculum and in the same process integrating the various disciplines such as English and Science teaching. Effectiveness should be increased and the student learning experiences should automatically become more personal.

The seven pilot schools selected in September have been re-testing the concept that "learning by doing" is valid. The approach used was a very practical one; namely to teach the teachers how to identify activities that relate to concepts and then how to do them. This meant teaching them how to use tools and materials.

Integrated practical activities can benefit elementary children by "providing a multi-sensory and creative environment in which more meaningful learning takes place".

Junior High School Industrial Arts

The revision of the Junior High School Industrial Arts courses has been completed and new guides will be available by September, 1976.

The general philosophy of the program remains unchanged. Students will have the opportunity to explore three to five different activity areas in each of the three years of junior high school.

Industrial Arts is an "A" option and as such must be taught for a minimum of 75 hours. In order to increase the exploration range, the hours required for such module may vary from 15 to 25.

The identification of modules to be taught in any one year or grade level is left to the school administration and teachers.

The modules are:

- Mechanics
- Electricity
- Electronics-Computer
- Visual Communications (2 modules)
- Metal
- Wood
- Plastics
- Earths
- Leather, Art Metal,
- Construction
- Consumerism
- Manufacturing
- Developmental Research (teacher)
- Student Research

Law 30 Pilot

An ad hoc committee has been appointed to develop the content for a new Law 30 course. The tentative date for the introduction of Law 30 is September, 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Texts, 1976 - 77

Because the recently organized Curriculum Policy Board will not have met before the 1976-77 School Book Branch Price List and Order Form goes to press, it is impossible to list in the publication those new texts being recommended for use in a number of subject areas as of September, 1976. Readers are therefore advised that new texts will be listed in a Supplementary Price List and Order Form which will be published by the School Book Branch at the earliest date possible. We regret that such delay may cause inconvenience and problems for those schools wishing to adopt the new texts for use this fall.

Update of Addresses for Distributors of Non-Print Materials

A list of distributors of non-print materials appeared in the Social Studies section of our February newsletter. Since then; Prentice Hall of Canada has informed us that they have a new Media Division which distributes materials from Scott Education, Warren Schloat Productions and See Hear Now. The address is:

Prentice-Hall Media
1870 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1P 2J7

Postage Stamps as Visual Aids

If you are a philatelist and interested in the use of postage stamps as visual aids in the classroom, you might be interested in contacting Mr. R.E. Bowley, 374 Hunter Street West, Peterborough, Ontario. Mr. Bowley has been awarded a Hilroy Fellowship and would welcome any inquiries from teachers regarding his project.

